

REMARKS

After entry of the present response, Claims 1-135 are pending in the present application. Applicants have amended Claims 46 and 113 to address antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 46-47 and 113-114 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph for lacking antecedent basis. Claims 46 and 113 have been amended to properly depend from a preceding element, and are now in condition for allowance. Claims 47 and 114, which depend from Claims 46 and 113, are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 14, 20, 22-23, 27-29, 33-36, 38-45, 48, 61-62, 64-65, 68-71, 73-74, 78, 82, 89-90, 94-96, 100-103, 105-112, 115, 126-127, 129, and 132-133 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gulla (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,877 B1).

Applicants submit that the Gulla reference is not available as prior art because Applicants completed the invention prior to March 6, 1998, the date the Gulla reference is available as prior art. A §1.131 Declaration, attached herewith, establishes by a showing of fact that Applicants have completed the invention prior to March 6, 1998. Accordingly, the Gulla reference is unavailable as prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 7-8, 72 and 76-77 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulla, in view of Harper (U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,858).

Claims 3, 7-8, 72 and 76-77 depend ultimately from independent Claims 1 and 70, respectively. Since the Gulla reference is not available as prior art against independent Claims 1 and 70, it cannot be used as prior art against dependent Claims 3, 7-8, 72 and 76-77.

Claims 6, 10-13, 75, 79-81, 21, 24-26, 31-32, 37, 46-47, 63, 66-67, 88, 91-93, 98-99, 104, 113-114, 128, 130-132, and 134-135 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulla.

Claims 6, 10-13, 21, 24-26, 31-32, 37, 46-47, 63, and 66-67 depend ultimately from independent Claim 1, and Claims 75, 79-81, 88, 91-93, 98-99, 104, 113-114, 128, 130-131, and 134-135 depend ultimately from independent Claim 70. Since the Gulla reference is not available as prior art against independent Claims 1 and 70, it cannot be used as prior art against dependent Claims 6, 10-13, 21, 24-26, 31-32, 37, 46-47, 63, 66-67, 75, 79-81, 88, 91-93, 98-99, 104, 113-114, 128, 130-131, and 134-135.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

46. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~42~~ 14 wherein at least one theater comprises a complex of multiple auditoriums and said means for storing compressed image and audio information ~~central storage system~~ is configured to transfer compressed information of a single image program to different ones of said auditoriums with preselected programmable offsets in time relative to each other.

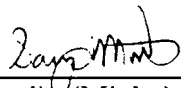
113. (Amended) The method of Claim ~~109~~ 82 further comprising transferring compressed information of a single image program from said central facility ~~storage system~~ to different ones of said auditoriums in a complex of multiple auditoriums in a theater with preselected programmable offsets in time relative to each other.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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